

As of Monday, April 27 there has not been a single reported case of swine flu in Oregon. Still, health officials are on alert and are preparing to deal with the sickness if it does strike the state. For a full update of statewide activities related to swine flu, visit the [Public Health Division website](#).

- As of today, the swine flu continues to be defined as an outbreak, not an epidemic or pandemic.
- To expedite federal assistance yesterday the President declared the outbreak to be a "public health emergency."
- There are no reported cases in Oregon, but that could change at any moment.
- Oregon state and county public health officials are monitoring the situation closely, with increased surveillance and testing.
- As of Sunday, Oregon launched the Agency Operation Center, which allows for rapid-response centralized information sharing and dissemination with health care providers and local public health agencies.
- If this outbreak were to be elevated Oregon is ready to respond. The state will launch the Pandemic Influenza Emergency Management Plan which establishes procedures for managing a pandemic.
- Members of the public should continue to take the same precautions they would with any flu - cover mouth when coughing, wash hands, don't go out in public if sick. If anyone does have flu-like symptoms, contact your doctor.

### **National and International Developments:**

The President declared a "Public Health Emergency" on Sunday, April 26, 2009, which frees federal resources to support the states should the situation become more serious. As a preparedness measure, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released 25 percent of each state's share of the Strategic National Stockpile cache of antiviral medications and masks to be sent to states. The number of cases confirmed in the US and in other countries continues to increase. So far the cases in the US have been relatively mild, with no deaths reported. By contrast, Mexico is reporting a large outbreak of respiratory illness with many deaths reported. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) are investigating, to try to confirm that the spectrum of illness is different in Mexico from what we are seeing in the US, and to understand why.

WHO has not raised the pandemic alert level, and it remains at level 3 (out of 6); they are reportedly going to reconsider raising the alert level later this week.

### Oregon Response:

- Given the reporting of cases from other states across the country, the state Public Health Department expects that it is only a matter of time before there are cases of swine flu identified in Oregon, but as of today there are no confirmed cases from Oregon or Washington. Over the weekend health officials received results on six flu virus specimens our Public Health Lab was not able to identify, which we had sent to CDC for further characterization; none of these is the "swine flu" strain.
- State health officials have asked health care providers in our "sentinel provider network," which is one of the methods we use to track flu activity in the state, to be sure to culture samples from anyone they see with symptoms compatible with flu, if that person has either visited an area with confirmed swine flu activity or come in contact with an ill person who has visited those areas.
- Tracking of emergency room and, hospitalization use for respiratory illnesses has not shown any uptick in cases. State health officials continue to monitor this activity.
- Oregon has requested that supplies be sent, and health officials expect them to arrive in the next few days. There are no plans to distribute these supplies further at this time, but believe it is prudent to have these supplies on the ground in Oregon.
- The Public Health Division is activating their Agency Operations Center to coordinate activities.